

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for temperature control of a nucleic-acid probe substrate, which controls the temperature to the substrate surface of which a plurality of nucleic-acid probes containing single-stranded nucleic acid fragments having a complementary sequence in respect to a target DNA have been immobilized in order that the target DNA contained in a specimen is detected according to hybridization; the system comprising:
  - a heat conduction means comprising a heat-conductive material disposed on the back of the substrate to the substrate surface of which the plurality of single-stranded nucleic acid fragments have been immobilized, and in contact with the back of the substrate;
  - a heating means or cooling means which is provided in contact with the heat-conductive material; and
  - a means for controlling the amount of heat flowing across the heating means or cooling means and the heat-conductive material, to control the temperature of the heat-conductive material;
  - the temperature of the substrate disposed in contact being controlled through the temperature control of the heat-conductive material.

2. A system for temperature control of a nucleic-acid probe substrate, which controls the temperature of a substrate to the substrate surface of which a plurality of nucleic-acid probes  
5 containing single-stranded nucleic acid fragments having a complementary sequence in respect to a target DNA have been immobilized in order that the target DNA contained in a specimen is detected according to hybridization; the system comprising:  
10 a heat conduction means comprising a heat-conductive material disposed on the surface of the substrate to the substrate surface of which the plurality of single-stranded nucleic acid fragments have been immobilized, facing, and in contact with,  
15 the substrate surface, partly leaving a space for feeding the specimen thereinto;  
a heating means or cooling means which is provided in contact with the heat-conductive material; and  
20 a means for controlling the amount of heat flowing across the heating means or cooling means and the heat-conductive material to control the temperature of the heat-conductive material;  
the specimen fed into the space and the  
25 substrate surface, which are in contact with the heat-conductive material, being temperature-controlled through the temperature

control of the heat-conductive material.

3. The system according to claim 1 or 2,  
wherein said heat-conductive material is formed of  
5 any one of a metal and a resin or a composite of  
these two or more.

4. A method for detecting genes by utilizing as  
a detection means a substrate to the substrate  
10 surface of which a plurality of nucleic-acid probes  
containing single-stranded nucleic acid fragments  
having a complementary sequence in respect to a  
target DNA have been immobilized in order that the  
target DNA contained in a specimen is detected  
15 according to hybridization; the method comprising:

disposing a heat-conductive material on the back  
of the substrate to the substrate surface of which  
the plurality of single-stranded nucleic acid  
fragments have been immobilized, and in contact with  
20 the back of the substrate;

disposing a heating means or cooling means in  
contact with the heat-conductive material; and

providing a temperature control means for  
controlling the amount of heat flowing across the  
25 heating means or cooling means and the  
heat-conductive material to control the temperature  
of the heat-conductive material;

the detection being operated while the substrate standing bonded sandwichedly and the specimen standing in contact with the substrate surface are temperature-controlled through the temperature control of the heat-conductive material by the temperature control means during the operation of gene detection.

5. The method according to claim 4, wherein, in a plurality of steps involved in the gene detection operation, said substrate and said specimen standing in contact with the substrate surface are temperature-controlled; and

the temperature in the plurality of steps requiring temperature control is successively controlled by the temperature control means which utilizes said heating means.

6. The method according to claim 4, wherein, in a plurality of steps involved in the gene detection operation, said substrate and said specimen standing in contact with the substrate surface are temperature-controlled; and

the temperature in the plurality of steps requiring temperature control is successively controlled by the temperature control means which utilizes said cooling means.

7. The method according to claim 4, wherein, as said heat-conductive material, which is utilized for the temperature control the substrate and of the specimen standing in contact with the substrate surface, a heat-conductive material is used which is formed of any one of a metal and a resin or a composite of these two or more.

8. A method for detecting genes by utilizing as a detection means a substrate to the substrate surface of which a plurality of nucleic-acid probes containing single-stranded nucleic acid fragments having a complementary sequence in respect to a target DNA have been immobilized in order that the target DNA contained in a specimen is detected according to hybridization; the method comprising:

disposing a heat-conductive material on the surface of the substrate to the substrate surface of which the plurality of single-stranded nucleic acid fragments have been immobilized, facing, and in contact with, the substrate surface, partly leaving a space for feeding the specimen thereinto;

disposing a heating means or cooling means in contact with the heat-conductive material; and

providing a temperature control means for controlling the amount of heat flowing across the heating means or cooling means and the

heat-conductive material to control the temperature of the heat-conductive material;

the detection being operated while the specimen fed into the space and the substrate surface, which  
5 are in contact with the heat-conductive material, being temperature-controlled through the temperature control of the heat-conductive material by the temperature control means during the operation of gene detection.

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9. The method according to claim 8, wherein, in a plurality of steps involved in the gene detection operation, said substrate and said specimen standing in contact with the substrate surface are

15 temperature-controlled; and

the temperature in the plurality of steps requiring temperature control is successively controlled by the temperature control means which utilizes said heating means.

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10. The method according to claim 8, wherein, in a plurality of steps involved in the gene detection operation, said substrate and said specimen standing in contact with the substrate surface are

25 temperature-controlled; and

the temperature in the plurality of steps requiring temperature control is successively

controlled by the temperature control means which utilizes said cooling means.

11. The method according to claim 8, wherein,  
5 as said heat-conductive material, which is utilized for the temperature control of the substrate and the specimen standing in contact with the substrate surface, a heat-conductive material is used which is formed of any one of a metal and a resin or a  
10 composite of these two or more.

12. A probe substrate temperature control system for controlling the temperature of a probe substrate to the substrate surface of which a  
15 plurality of probes bindable specifically to a target substance have been immobilized in order to detect the target substance; the system comprising:

a heat conduction means comprising a heat-conductive material disposed on the side  
20 opposite to the surface of the probe substrate to which surface the detecting target substance have been immobilized, and in contact with the back of the substrate;

a heating means or cooling means which is  
25 provided in contact with the heat-conductive material; and

a means for controlling the amount of heat

flowing across the heating means or cooling means and the heat-conductive material to control the temperature of the heat-conductive material;

the temperature of the substrate disposed in  
5 contact being controlled through the temperature control of the heat-conductive material.

13. A probe substrate comprising:

a substrate;

10 a plurality of probes bindable specifically to a target substance which have been immobilized to the substrate surface; and

a heat-conductive material for controlling the temperature of the substrate; the material being  
15 disposed in contact with the back of the substrate.

14. A probe substrate temperature control system for controlling the temperature of a probe substrate to the substrate surface of which a  
20 plurality of probes bindable specifically to a target substance have been immobilized in order to detect the target substance; the system comprising:

a heat conduction means comprising a heat-conductive material disposed on the surface of  
25 the substrate to the substrate surface of which the plurality of probes have been immobilized, facing, and in contact with, the substrate surface, partly



leaving a space for feeding the specimen thereinto;

a heating means or cooling means which is provided in contact with the heat-conductive material; and

5 a means for controlling the amount of heat flowing across the heating means or cooling means and the heat-conductive material to control the temperature of the heat-conductive material;

the temperature of the substrate disposed in  
10 contact being controlled through the temperature control of the heat-conductive material.

15. A probe substrate comprising:

a substrate;

15 a plurality of probes bindable specifically to a target substance which have been immobilized to the substrate surface; and

a heat-conductive material for controlling the temperature of the substrate; the material being  
20 disposed on the surface of the substrate to the substrate surface of which the plurality of probes have been immobilized, facing, and in contact with, the substrate surface, partly leaving a space for feeding the specimen thereinto.

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